

# **STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

## **EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

### **A PROCLAMATION**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, Ryan David Hammond was born in Glen Dale, West Virginia, on the twenty-ninth day of March, Nineteen Hundred Eighty-nine, the son of David and Cathy Hammond; and

**WHEREAS**, Ryan Hammond was a Two Thousand Seven graduate of John Marshall High School, Glen Dale, West Virginia, and joined the United States Air Force in September, Two Thousand Seven, as an F-15 Avionics Technician at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, and Seymour Air Force Base, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, Ryan Hammond cross-trained to be a Loadmaster at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in March, Two Thousand Fourteen, as part of the 39<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, and he later served in this capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond had completed Tyndall AFB Aero Club Private Pilot Ground School in Two Thousand Ten, Community College of the Air Force – Aviation Operations in Two Thousand Fifteen, Community College of the Air Force – Avionics Systems Tech in Two Thousand Fifteen, and was in the process of completing his Technical Management – Bachelors of Science at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; and

**WHEREAS**, on the second day of October, Two Thousand Fifteen, Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond was killed in a plane crash in Jalalabad, Afghanistan; and

**WHEREAS**, Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond completed five hundred eighty-six and one-half flying hours and through his dedicated service and sacrifice, was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the USAF NCO Graduate Ribbon; he received a Letter of Commendation Airman Leader 332 Training Squadron in Two Thousand Nine, FIS Avionics Top Performer in Two Thousand Eleven, and was named 4 Component Maintenance Squadron NCO Professional of the Month in Two Thousand Twelve; he also received two Air Force Achievement Medals, two Air Force Good Conduct Medals, the Air Force Achievement Medal Oak Leaf Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Longevity Service Award; his unit received three Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards and two Meritorious Unit Awards; and

**WHEREAS**, Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond is survived by his wife, Holly Hammond; his parents, David and Cathy Hammond; his sisters, Jodee Juarez and Laura Hill; his maternal grandmother, Mildred Berisford; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and other extended family and friends; he was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Conward Berisford, and his paternal grandparents, Norman and Dolores Hammond; and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens of the State of West Virginia mourn the loss of this young airman, and our most heartfelt sympathies are extended to his family, his friends, his fellow comrades in the United States Air Force, and all those who knew and loved him.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, EARL RAY TOMBLIN**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **ORDER** that all United States and State flags displayed at all State facilities throughout the State be displayed at half-staff from dawn until dusk on Wednesday, the fourteenth day of October, Two Thousand Fifteen, the day of services for Staff Sergeant Ryan Hammond.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.



DONE at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the thirteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fifteen and in the One Hundred Fifty-Third year of the State.

*Earl Ray Tomblin*

GOVERNOR

By the Governor

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SECRETARY OF STATE